

Application No. 10/664,659
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

RE: ELECTION

Applicant hereby elects Species I, corresponding to claim 1 and claims 2 and 4-7 depending therefrom, for further prosecution on the merits, without traverse.

RE: THE CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Independent claims 8, 11 and 18 have been amended to depend from elected independent claim 1.

In addition, claims 1, 2, 4-12 and 18 have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements and to correct some minor antecedent basis problems so as to put the claims in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent. It is respectfully submitted, however, that these amendments are not related to patentability and do not narrow the scope of the claims, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

No new matter has been added to the claims, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

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RE: NON-ELECTED CLAIMS 8-12 and 18

Non-elected claims 8-12 and 18 depend from elected claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that if claim 1 is found to be allowable, claims 8-12 and 18 also be considered on the merits and allowed.

RE: THE OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 8 AND 11

On page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner contends that the wording of claims 8 and 11 is identical.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that according to claim 8 the support substrate has a principal surface that is one of a (100) plane and a crystalline plane having an inclination angle of not more than 2° from the (100) plane. By contrast, according to claim 11 the support substrate has a principal surface that is one of a (100) plane and a crystalline plane having an inclination angle of not more than 0.2° from the (100) plane. Thus, claims 8 and 11 are not identical, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's objection to claim 11 be withdrawn.

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It is respectfully requested that prosecution on the merits proceed in view of this Election and Amendment.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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